

REMARKS

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,036 B1 issued to Matsumoto ("MATSUMOTO") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,407,738 B1 issued to Wakabayashi ("WAKABAYASHI"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075283 A1 by Payne ("PAYNE")

A. Claim 1

It is axiomatic that the combination of the cited references in a §103 rejection must disclose every element in the rejected claim. MPEP 2143.03. As will be shown below, the cited references, either singly or combined, do not disclose multiple limitations in claim 1.

1. The PAYNE Application

The Examiner acknowledged that MATSUMOTO and WAKABAYASHI do not disclose any method wherein at least one of the exterior voxels is warped. The Examiner cited PAYNE as allegedly disclosing this limitation.

PAYNE discloses a method for "modification of voxel models" by applying an inverse warping function then resampling the three-dimensional model to achieve the desired modification. PAYNE, paragraphs [0005], [0006], [0009], and [0011].

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites directly warping at least one of the exterior voxels and without resampling the three-dimensional model. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore should also be in condition for allowance.

II. Allowable and Allowed Subject Matter


Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claim 4 and allowing claims 6-8.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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